



Minutes of the West Sussex Local Access Forum

Wednesday 19 October 2016

Norfolk Room, Edes House, County Hall, Chichester

Present

Graham Elvey (GE) – Acting Chairman

Bill Acraman (BA)

Derek Whittington (DW)

Helen Baldwin (HB)

Paul Brown (PB)

Nicol Beard (NB)

Tricia Butcher (TB)

Geoff Farrell (GF)

Jason Lavender (JL)

In attendance

Jane Noble (JN)

Charlotte Weller (CW)

Forum Officer (WSCC Senior Access Officer)

Countryside Services Manager (WSCC)

1. Apologies and welcomes

Glynn Jones, Roger Hobbs, Sam Wright, Val Rawlings, Duncan Crow and David Whyberd – JN to write letter to thank him for his contributions.

JN

GE introduced Jason Lavender to the meeting - rep on trust which has responsibility for land on Kent/Sussex border which they encourage open access. The Trust manage land predominantly for commercial reasons. Co-director of High Weald Unit but will be sitting on WSLAF to represent land owner interests.

2. Minutes of the Forum

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

3. Actions and Matters arising not covered by agenda

JN confirmed she had contacted Natural England regarding the England Coastal Path as requested at the last meeting and had circulated the response she had received to the Forum.

TC confirmed she had drafted a generic Neighbourhood Plan response and had sent it to SW to comment on. It was suggested that SW consider whether the statement is now required as the majority of plans have now been written.

SW

JN reported that she had spoken to highways colleagues about any changes to G roads. The Officer has confirmed he is not aware of any changes that have been made to the G roads and he committed to inform the PRow team of any future proposed changes. JN will make sure the Forum is made aware.

BA asked if all the G roads are open and available. JN confirmed they are and reiterated that they are inspected as part of PRow inspections.

WSLAF Annual report to be recirculated as some of the group had not received it.

JN

Val Rawlings has been appointed by WSCC to the Forum to represent disabled ramblers.

GE informed the group that the National Trust will not be charging for the use of PRow. The initiative which had been discussed at the previous meeting related to public events which the National Trust runs on their land. This approach will be piloted in other counties.

JN confirmed she had made the requested changes to the work programme from the last meeting and had circulated to the Forum.

Responses to the most recent consultations (Walking and Cycling Strategy and the Joint Minerals Local Plan) have been submitted and were available for viewing at the meeting.

TB reported there were no Local Plan updates.

PB confirmed he had written to the local Access Ranger regarding HW110, Horsted Keynes 5 but had not received a reply. JN to chase this up with Sue

JN

Deregulation Act guidance is still awaited and will be circulated to the Forum when available.

JN

4. Any urgent items to be considered on the agenda

None

5. Current/Future consultation and advice given

There are no live consultations for the Forum to consider currently.

GF asked what had happened re. the A27 consultation. JN reported that RH had attended one of the roadshow events and had reported back that, at a high level, Highways England (HE) they have the appropriate wording about considering access. At the moment HE are looking at options so he feels it is not the right time to make any comments.

NB informed the Forum she had also attended one of the roadshow events. She reported that they were concerned about the potential cut off of the cycle route from Oving. She believes there are opportunities to make sustainable transport improvements on the link roads.

GF stated he believed HE's focus is cars and they may not be willing to consider other users. He reported that Peter Phillips, HE, had said they were planning to sort out the car issues first and then consider other users. TB reiterated that HE have a responsibility to look after vulnerable road users too.

The group agreed that WSLAF must contribute to and be involved in the future as there is a really opportunity to influence. TB explained it is possible to sign up to newsletters from HE that provide detail on what is coming up. She also believes it is important to maintain contact with Peter Phillips. BA suggested the MP, Andrew Tyrie, may also be someone useful to contact.

GF asked if WSCC have objected to the proposals. CW said she would make the submission available with the minutes (see link below).

http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/edd/ht/ht15_16-17record.pdf

Peter Phillips to be invited to a meeting in the future once an option has been decided.

SW/JN

Shopwhkye development – NB asked if TB had been involved in the decision on what type of bridge should be installed at that location. TB confirmed she had commented but HE have only provided a facility for cyclists and walkers which was disappointing.

Improvement Projects

Kilnwood Vale Pegasus Crossing – in accordance with the planning permission the developer, Crest Nicholson, should install the crossing when the 300th house is occupied. Crest Nicholson have put in application to delay this to the point at which the 600th house is occupied. This could be two years. TB has made the case that residents can't wait that long and WSCC has agreed with the argument. Crest Nicholson have been provided with a 6 month delay.

TB confirmed that when construction is finished the site access road will be a permanent access route for cars.

Rampion Wind Farm – JN updated the group on the works. Works on bridleway 4T, Twineham, is nearly complete and it is anticipated that works on the Restricted Byway 2059 should be delivered this year.

South Downs Local Access Forum

GJ was unable to make the meeting so no update was provided. The group noted there was a meeting on the 21 October 2016 so JN to circulate the agenda.

JN

RoWIP Workshop

A workshop session was held to allow WSLAF to feed in to the development of the new West Sussex RoWIP.

General Report

The group were asked to note the contents of the report.

PB asked why the most recent RoW Committee was cancelled. JN responded that there had not been enough business to justify the meeting. PB raised the concern that cancelling the meeting does not allow the public to view and consider the reports. BA agreed with his point but reiterated that there does need to be enough business for the meeting to take place.

Date of Next meeting

25 January 2017, Horsham